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Inside Information

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PUBLICATIONS USER FEES AUTHORIZED BY LAW

Collection and retention of user fees for USDA publications are authorized by the new Agriculture and Food Act of 1981.

The statute "empowers the Secretary to furnish upon request, copies of pamphlets, reports, publications and other media prepared by the Department and to charge such fees therefor as the Secretary determines to be reasonable."

A task force, headed by Assistant Deputy Secretary Richard Douglas, has recommended to the Secretary the implementation of a department-wide program of user fees for publications.

The task force adopted four broad recommendations concerning user fees and has asked USDA agencies for comments on the proposals by January 13.

The first recommendation of the task force is that all USDA agencies begin a user fee system for publications no later than October 1, 1982.

Second, agencies would charge for all publications except those that explain an agency program or provide assistance with implementing any agency program. Each agency will determine which publications, periodicals or other printed materials fall in the exception category.

Third, recommendation is that each agency decide whether it establishes its own fees, collects and keeps subscription revenue or whether the Government Printing Office, Commerce Department's National Technical Information Service or, private firm will handle the paid subscriptions and fees.

If the agency sets its own fees, the fees charged to subscribers should recover only costs associated with producing and distributing copies of publications, the task force recommends.

Fourth major recommendation of the task force is that each agency limit the number of free copies of any publication with a user fee--perhaps a maximum of 500 copies. Douglas said the ability to sell subscriptions will be greatly influenced by the number of free copies distributed.

USDA is probably the first federal department or agency to get statutory authority to sell its publications and retain revenue derived from such sales rather than depositing income into the general U.S. Treasury account.

The law specifically says that all moneys received in payment "for documents, reports, publications, or other media provided shall be deposited in a separate account or accounts to be available until expended and may be used to pay directly the cost of such work, service, documents, reports, publications or other media and to repay or make advances to appropriations of funds which do or will initially bear all or part of such costs."

FIRST AG COMMUNICATORS' CONGRESS PLANNED

The first Congress of Agricultural Communicators is being planned for Washington, D.C., in the summer of 1984.

The Agricultural Relations Council and the American Agricultural Editors Association have already endorsed the plan.

Other agricultural communicators' organizations, including the Agricultural Communicators in Education and the Communication Officers of State Departments of Agriculture, are being invited to take part in the super conference.

Don Collins, vice president of communications for The Fertilizer Institute and past president of ARC (and an active associate member of ACE), is leading the cooperative venture.

Larry Quinn, head of the USDA Video-Film Center, is serving as the ACE and USDA liaison with ARC in developing of plans.

The ACE Board of Directors recently voted to link up with ARC for the meeting, subject to member approval.

KSU NEEDS ASSISTANT PUBLICATIONS EDITOR

An assistant publications editor position will open in April with the Cooperative Extension Service at Kansas State University.

The incumbent will provide editorial assistance for publications and training materials in 4-H, community development, radio-television, and special publications as assigned.

The position also calls for assisting and advising extension specialists in preparation of literature to support their educational programs, and includes editing, writing, rewriting, publications layout and design and in-service training.

A master's degree is required. The incumbent must demonstrate skill and practical experience in planning, editing and producing publications, and must be able to relate well to extension specialists.

Anyone interested should send application, resume, academic transcripts, portfolio of work and three letters of reference by February 5, 1982, to: Gary L. Vacin, Extension Editor, 129 Umberger Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.

USDA LIBRARY TO GET SATELLITE PROGRAM

A "first" for USDA's National Agricultural Library will occur January 26 when NAL becomes a receiving station for a video-teleconference transmitted live from Denver, Colo., via a SATCOM I satellite to Beltsville, Md.

NAL will receive a special program on marketing information and library services from the midwinter meeting of the American Library Association in Denver.

The USDA library will be one of 40 regional receiving centers across the United States.

NAL's participation in the satellite telecast is jointly sponsored and funded by the Federal Librarians Round Table of the American Library Association, the Federal Library Committee, and the Associates of the National Agricultural Library, Inc.

Those interested in viewing the live telecast or wanting more information should contact Leila Moran, Educational Resources Staff, NAL, Beltsville, MD 20705, or call (301) 344-3937.

FARM MAGAZINE LIKES "FARMLINE"

"FARMLINE," monthly periodical published by USDA's Statistical Reporting Service and Economic Research Service, has been praised by the editor of FARM JOURNAL magazine, Lane Palmer.

He recently wrote to an administrator: "The magazine format is admirably adapted to the presentation of statistical data and I am impressed particularly with the chart work your people are doing."

Palmer also said the farm magazine's economics editor, Roe Black, is likewise impressed by the recent improvements in "FARMLINE."

Joan Bazemore and Carolyn Fletcher of the Economics Management Information staff are responsible for design and layout.

Eric Van Chantfort is the editor, Bill Gordon is assistant editor and Martha Evans is editorial assistant.

PUBLISHING & PRINTING CONFERENCE SET

American University will sponsor a national conference March 1-3 on publishing and printing at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The conference will dwell on technology and management, with workshop sessions scheduled on electronic composition, word processing, office automation and OCR, and videotex/teletext for publishing and printing.

Those wanting more information about the program should contact Lowell H. Hattery, Center for Technology & Administration, American University, Washington, DC, or call (202) 686-2513.

MORE JOIN ELECTRONIC MAIL SYSTEM

Two more agricultural communications offices have acquired mailboxes on the Dialcom electronic mail system, and an agricultural communicators' organization plans to get on system.

Art Higbee, Utah State University at Logan, reports that his office is now on the system (number is AGS2331). Information office of USDA's Forest Service also is now on the system (number is AGR009). Hal Taylor, national coordinator for Agricultural Communicators in Education, says ACE headquarters now is also on the system (number is AGZ010).

COMMITTEE ON EXTENSION'S FUTURE FORMED

Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has established a Joint Committee on the Future of Cooperative Extension to advise him on the future of USDA's nationwide information education network.

The committee will advise the Secretary on policies and programs affecting the mission, future scope and priorities of the federal-state-local cooperative extension system through the 1980s and beyond.

Agenda for the committee's first meeting, to be held January 27-29 in Arlington, Va., includes a review of background studies and discussion of issues.

More details are included in USDA news release 21-82, dated January 8, issued by the USDA News Center, Room 404-A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, telephone (202) 447-4026.

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATORS ON DIALCOM ELECTRONIC MAIL SYSTEM

Washington, D.C.

USDA Public Affairs Ass't Dir.	Stan Prochaska	AGR002
USDA News Center	Ray Schleeter	AGR003
USDA Agricultural Marketing Service	Lew Brodsky	AGR005
USDA Food Safety & Inspection Service	Herb Gantz	AGR008
USDA Forest Service	Diane O'Connor	AGR009
USDA Food & Nutrition Service (not in operation yet)		
USDA Secretary's Office	John Ochs	AGR030
USDA AGR System Control	Nancy Bevis	AGR001
USDA Coop. State Research Service	Mason Miller	AGS3003
USDA Extension Service	Ovid Bay	AGS091
USDA National Agricultural Library	Eugene Farkas	AGS3052
USDA Science & Education Director	Alice Skelsey	AGS3200
USDA AGS System Control	Jerry Paulsen	AGS001
ACE (Agric. Communicators in Education)	Hal Taylor	AGZ010
DIALCOM Support (for users)	Jane Weinstein	JANEW
DIALCOM Marketing (for agriculture)	Ken Norris	KENN

California (San Francisco)

USDA-AMS/APHIS Reg. Inf. Office	Ben Darling	AGR022
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Florida

Fla. Dept. of Agriculture (Tallahassee)	Charles Allen	GFL001
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Georgia

USDA-AMS/APHIS Reg. Inf. Office (Atlanta)	Connie Crunkleton	AGR011
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Illinois

USDA-AMS/APHIS Reg. Inf. Office (Chicago)	Herb Jackson	AGR014
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Indiana

Purdue University (Lafayette)	Eldon Fredericks	AGS802
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Michigan

Michigan State University (East Lansing)	Bob Neumann	AGS1227
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Minnesota

University of Minnesota (St. Paul)	Gail McClure	AGS2652
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Missouri

University of Missouri (Columbia)	Dick Lee	AGS1355
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New Mexico

New Mexico State University (Las Cruces)	Norman Newcomer	AGS1652
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New York (New York)

USDA-AMS/APHIS Reg. Inf. Office	Bryan Killikelly	AGR019
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North Dakota

North Dakota State University (Fargo)	Chuck Humphrey	AGS1801
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Oregon

Oregon State University (Corvallis)	Gwil Evans	AGS1951
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Pennsylvania (Univ. Park)

Pennsylvania State University	Glen Goss	AGS2025
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Texas

Texas A&M University (College Station)	Jim Hunt	AGS2260
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Texas Department of Agriculture (Austin)	(not in operation yet)	
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USDA-AMS/APHIS Reg. Inf. Office (Dallas)	Harold Bryson	AGR017
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Utah

Utah State University (Logan)	Art Higbee	AGS2331
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